

# The Sun

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## The Growth of This Town.

During the last ten years the population of New York, according to the estimates of the Health Department, has increased by about one-third, or something like 400,000. That is, the gain in the number of the inhabitants since 1880 has been nearly equal to the whole population of the town forty or fifty years ago. The proportionate increase in Brooklyn is estimated to have been even greater, or hard on one-half in the ten years, and the population of the two towns is now probably between 2,400,000 and 2,500,000.

The increase in the communities joined by the Brooklyn bridge, and substantially one in character and interests, has, therefore, been toward the three-quarters of a million in a single decade. It has been so great and has come so rapidly that the authorities have been taxed to provide the public improvements necessary for its accommodation, and in some respects, accordingly, the town, grown to the proportions of a first-class capital, is inferior in its municipal arrangements to such communities of Europe. As streets are not so well paved and not so well swept as those of London and Paris.

But it must be remembered that London and Paris were already civilized cities when Manhattan Island was a wilderness, inhabited only by savages, and that New York within the memory of all those who have passed middle life was a provincial community, with no forecast of its extraordinary development during the last twenty-five years. Until very recently the municipal machinery was crude and village-like. The architecture of the town, with a very few exceptions, was poor and mean. There was comparatively little wealth, and the habits and customs of the people were simple and frugal. It is only since the war that the place has begun to take on the character of a great capital, and the time has been too short for putting it on a level with old communities like London and Paris in respect of its municipal provisions. Its main necessity has been to lay out new streets for the increasing population.

But now we shall see progress in every direction. The growth of the town has educated public officers as to the municipal requirements of such a community, and the people themselves have become more exacting in their demands and more critical in their tastes. Modern invention, too, is all the time multiplying the means for increasing the health and comfort of our urban population. The development of the capabilities of electricity for illuminating the streets is in its infancy. The opening of the new aqueduct will give us an abundant supply of water, so that fountains may be again started to enhance the beauty of the town. The new parks will be pleasure grounds for the people unequalled in extent and in variety of natural scenery. The advance in architecture has been great during the last ten years, but at present it is more marked than at any time before. The pavements, now so unsatisfactory, will be replaced by, and the needed additional facilities for rapid transit will be provided.

It is not rash to predict that all these improvements will be enjoyed by the people of New York and Brooklyn before the year 1900, when together they will number something like 3,000,000, and perhaps will be under a good government and consequently more effective municipal government. Such deficiencies as exist are inevitable, but they cannot remain much longer under our present development.

## The Troubles with Colombia.

Whatever the merits of the complaints made by New York merchants against the United States of Colombia, the Government at Washington has sufficient force in the Gulf of Mexico to prevent any encroachment on American rights, and to procure the redress of all grievances. Under Rear Admiral GERRARD are the Galena, eight guns, which at last accounts was at Port-au-Prince or San Domingo; the Kearsage, seven guns, recently at Gonaves; the Yantic, four guns, cruising in the same waters, with her address for the present at Curacao, and the Dolphin. This squadron, or any vessel detached from it, is quite capable of taking care of the little Colombian cutter, La Papa, itself formerly a pleasure yacht, which seized the schooner Pearl last October, and afterward the schooners Julian and Willie. The promptness with which the Navy Department acted in the trouble with Colombia five years ago, when blue jackets and marines were landed at Aspinwall, held the isthmus, and by their action it was not long before now, should there be any sound reason for its interference.

Accordingly the proposal that the vessels trading with the Indians on the San Blas coast should go prepared to offer armed resistance to the Colombian gunboats is wholly unnecessary, while the experiment would be a very dangerous one for them. The cutter La Papa is a Government craft, acting under direct authority to maintain the Colombian customs laws. According to the view of the Colombian Government, the trading vessels which she seized were engaged in smuggling, or certainly in a violation of the laws of that country. That may or may not be the true view. It may be found, as our traders hold, that the seizure of their vessels was a great outrage. If so, they are entitled to redress for every dollar of damage caused by the seizures. The loss of the perishable goods aboard and the loss of a season's trade by delay are among the elements of damage. The State Department is a proper channel for presenting all such claims of injury.

On the other hand, Captains of vessels who undertake to carry on war on their account, or on that of their owners, against the regular Government, will have our Government on its guard, and will have our Government to deal with as well as the foreign nation. Each Government must exercise jurisdiction over its own inshore waters, and must undertake the execution of its own customs regulations and revenue laws. If, instead of submitting to seizure by lawfully constituted authorities, vessels are to arm themselves and fire upon those authorities, on the ground that they do not consider the seizure justifiable, the world's present system of maritime law will have to be fundamentally altered.

We have heard something of this proposed method of settling revenue disputes in the Behring Sea controversy. There was much talk of the Victoria sailing schooners fighting the cutter Richard Rush; and certainly there has been a hundred times as much denunciation of the Rush as of the Papa. In like manner, it was once declared that some of our Gloucester fishing vessels had provided themselves with artillery for resisting the Dominion cruisers. But, of course, no such attempt at carrying on private war has really been contemplated, either on the shores of Nova Scotia or in

Behring Sea. The Government vessels there stationed are to execute the revenue and fishery laws, although these laws may be such as to give foreigners suffering from a valid claim of damages. Precisely the same is true of the revenue regulations on the Colombian coast. Possibly seizures there may create a basis for indemnity; but that is quite different from undertaking to carry on war against the lawful authorities of Colombia.

## They Are of Great Faith.

It is true, as a correspondent observes, that the Roman Catholic Church interprets the directions of St. James for the healing of the sick to apply to the cure of their souls and not their bodies. The sacrament of extreme unction derives its chief authority from that interpretation of the Epistle.

From the time of LUTHER all the Protestant Churches have rejected this teaching, the Church of England, in its thirty-nine articles, expressly including extreme unction among the five sacraments of the Church of Rome, which "are not to be counted for sacraments of the Gospel." The usual Protestant theory is that St. James referred to the miraculous "gift of healing," which was imparted to the Apostles, and by them to some of the early believers, but was not continued in the Church in later times; though exactly when or why it was taken away does not appear. That the healing of which St. James speaks is bodily, and not spiritual healing, Protestants have never questioned.

There have always been individuals and sects among them who have contended that the injunctions of St. James still remain binding, and that the gift of healing has not been taken away from the Church. EDWARD IRVING had that faith, and it is held by the religious body known as Irvingites. Within a few years, too, an Episcopal clergyman of Connecticut regarded himself as possessed of the gift because of his succession from the Apostles, and he had many sympathizers among the clergy of his Church. Believers in the faith cure, as it is called, are now numerous, and among the number are many more than average intelligence. Some of them have their own religious associations, but others have formed themselves into distinct sects, which have grown to be large and zealous. There is also the body known as Christian Scientists, who hold that healing is performed by spiritual agencies, and that disease is only spiritual imperfection; and Dr. J. C. BIERWIRTH, in a recent paper on the subject, read before the Kings County Medical Association, speaks of several sects and societies existing in Brooklyn which hold varying views of the faith cure. "Some," he says, "only invoke Divine help when there is no danger to life, but they will send for a doctor as soon as there seems to be a real or supposed danger approaching." Their faith is weaker than their natural affection. But others "will refuse medical aid and medicines under all circumstances, preferring death to any help which medical skill might afford them. Their only guide is the Bible, and their only relief from suffering must come from prayer."

LARSEN, who was lately punished in Brooklyn for neglecting to provide medical care for his sick child, is, it seems, a member of a sect holding peculiar views as to the subject. They call themselves the New Evangelists, and are made up mostly of Scandinavians of little wealth, and hold their meetings in Hamilton avenue. Their faith is a simple belief in the Bible, and "in sincerity and strength," says Dr. BIERWIRTH, "they rival the religious fanatics of past ages." They have no ministers or other leaders, and their meetings are conducted after the Quaker method. They refuse all medical aid, on the ground that "disease is sent by God, either as punishment or trial, and it would be a sin to interfere with His will by any attempt to relieve the sufferer or cure the illness. If the person dies, they say it was God's will; and should recovery ensue, this again will be regarded as a manifestation of Divine Providence." They look after the sick by keeping them properly fed and clean, and then leave the rest to God.

Thus the New Evangelists carry the theory of election further than the Calvinists even, by extending it to the life or death of the body no less than the salvation or damnation of the soul. The Presbyteries of New York and Brooklyn would retain that awful doctrine in their confession, and yet they would visit with aid and imprisonment these poor Scandinavians simply because they push the theory of foreordination to a conclusion as logical as their own. If God arranged all things in the councils of eternity, He fixed unalterably the period of life for every individual, and it is folly to attempt to dispute His will. Thus say the New Evangelists, and how are the Calvinists to answer them?

Moreover, these Scandinavians actually obey to the letter the command of CHRIST to give up all things to follow Him. They will hold no individual property, all their possessions going into a general fund. Dr. BIERWIRTH relates that one of them, before he became a member, laid out all his savings in the purchase of two city lots, and as, after his conversion, he could no longer own property, he wanted the real estate agent to take the land and refund the money. When the agent refused to do so, the New Evangelist told him to keep both the land and the money.

It is evident that the pains and penalties of the law will never swerve such believers from the course which they regard as of Divine appointment. What they look upon as only the persecution of their faith, they intend to continue to the last. They will jail as joyfully as the early Christian martyrs went to the stake. What care they? Believing that all things are of Divine foreordination, they will leave the consequences to God.

It is a remarkable phenomenon that this age of skepticism is also an age of faith like that of the first days of Christianity.

## Coast Defence in 1890.

This year will show decided progress toward the protection of the seaports of the United States. During the summer ten dynamite guns will be mounted, five in New York harbor, three at San Francisco, and two at Boston. The limited range of these weapons, not much over a mile, makes them merely auxiliary defenses; but they will serve a good temporary purpose, until the great steel guns are built. Once mounted and protected, the pneumatic tubes can be usefully used in practice, and the area covered by them can be carefully plotted, so as to insure the explosion of a big dynamite torpedo upon or near a hostile vessel crossing any part of the plotted area. The doubt as to the availability of this rather clumsy apparatus on a vessel on the sea have never affected the question of its use on land.

The next main feature of the year will probably be the beginning of the series of battleships for the navy. Should Congress pass a Fortification bill for this purpose before July 1, the work could start on that date. Gen. BAKER says that the big mortars can now be turned out as fast as

emplacements can be made for them, and also that new gun batteries begun by July 1 could be armed with 8-inch, high-power breech-loaders next year. The 8-inch gun, to be sure, is a very moderate one as caliber goes, but it fires a 300-pound shot with 140 pounds of powder, and gets a muzzle velocity of 1,957 feet per second and a muzzle energy of 7,965 foot-tons. These were the actual results achieved by the first one made at the Watervliet Arsenal. In the plans of the Fortification Board no fewer than 102 guns of this calibre were asked for, as well as many larger ones; so that Congress may well begin to provide for building the batteries necessary for them. Secretary PROCTOR says that we can also put to some use about 2,000 old muzzle-loaders, and that "all of our present fortifications could be utilized for accessory defence." The Chief of Engineers has made estimates for beginning new earthworks at the leading ports, but Congress will have to authorize the purchase of some new sites for this purpose.

In four weeks from this time the Board of Ordnance and Fortification will be receiving the first sets of forgings for the new 8-inch rifles, which will then be finished and put together as rapidly as possible at the Watervliet Arsenal gun factory. Forgings for the 10-inch guns are not due until next January, and those for the 12-inch guns not until the following May. Meanwhile, however, the Board has contracted for the manufacture of a large number of heavy mortars, and these, with the 8-inch guns, will be the first source of reliance after the pneumatic guns.

Congress, therefore, should take up promptly the supply of new emplacements for these various weapons. Hitherto this has not been necessary, because there were no new guns or mortars sufficiently advanced, but now the situation has changed. Secretary PROCTOR, in suggesting that a beginning should be made with New York, Washington, and San Francisco, says that if a hostile fleet should make the streets of New York "the corner and wheat of the prairies, would show the loss." Considerations of interest as well as of national honor make the work of defence incumbent on all.

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## Courtship as a Check to Marriage.

A lady eminent in American letters, and believed to be a matron of experience, who signs her name "ELIZABETH STUART PHILIPS" to a magazine article, has a symposium for the discussion of divorce in the January *New York Review*. Divorce, Miss PHILIPS thinks is the surgery of marriage, and she does not condemn it as a last desperate resort. "We'll never get rid of it, she thinks, while we are allowed to marry as we do. "As our laws stand in the face," Miss PHILIPS says, "there is no man so abnormally bad that he may not marry the very nicest woman who will have him; and there is no woman so 'enfeebled' in body and mind by corsets or chloral" and none otherwise so objectionable as not to be allowed to become the wife of the best of men, if he is willing and she wants him, and "the mother of his doomed children." Felons may marry and beget paupers; paupers may marry and breed paupers; foreign chaps with titles may marry pure, and even rich, American girls; men may marry housekeepers, and women may marry men who promise to be good providers. There is no law, not even an unwritten law, Miss PHILIPS complains, "that prevents a man and woman who do not love each other supremely, unselfishly, permanently, and who might almost say divinely, from daring to take upon themselves the sacred marriage vow."

Well, no! Happily there isn't. If there was, Miss PHILIPS can possibly tell us where the State might look for parents for its rising generation. Never having tried marriage, under conditions that fell short of perfection, Miss PHILIPS does not appreciate that even such a marriage may be better than none. The State knows it, however, and is careful not to throw any unnecessary obstacles in the way of persons who have got themselves up to the marrying point. The State knows, what Miss PHILIPS seems entirely to overlook, that that is a mighty difficult point to reach, and it does not propose to let the time and pains of persons who have attained it be wasted. That is one reason why hindrances to marriage are so contrary to the spirit of the common law. If Miss PHILIPS should seek State aid to realize her ideal of fit preventives to matrimony, she must reflect before framing her bill that the country is full of married people who love each other with the inconstancy of imperfect natures, but who would rather love imperfectly than not at all; who would rather be married than not; and who, on the whole, would rather be married to their present spouses than be at the immense trouble and expense of trying new ones with doubtful consequences.

In her forcible remarks about the lack of hindrances which should prevent people from making bad marriages, Miss PHILIPS seems entirely to forget that there is such a thing as courtship. She speaks as though any bad man might drag any good woman to church and marry her out of hand. But, in fact, to get a woman to stand up before a priest with him is one of the most complicated transactions that civilized man undertakes; and to lead a coy and uncertain maid to the altar is perhaps the most difficult triumph of a modern woman. There may be a lack of unwritten law to prevent people who do not love one another "almost divinely" from getting married; but there is no lack of literature that points that way. It seems a safe statement that of every five books that are sold to the American people the chief end and interest and excuse of two of them is the demonstration they contain of the uncertainties of the great art of courtship. A process in which such boundless interest is taken, and in which such interminable instruction is necessary, must be a pretty serious business, and worthy of a much higher consideration than Miss PHILIPS has yet given it, at least in any published essay.

The fact is that the reason why we are allowed such license as we still enjoy about getting married is that the difficulties are already so great that if they were made any harder for us, we could not get married at all. It may be different in New England, where, we believe, Miss PHILIPS resides, but in the great State of New York women are held in such esteem, and there is such a demand for them, that it requires sleepless enterprise in our young men to discover satisfactory partners and appropriate them. It was made more difficult, it would kill divorce. Miss PHILIPS is right there, but marriage would be killed first. Miss PHILIPS should make a study of modern courtship. We think she will find it a more effectual preventive than she has supposed.

## Wine.

Washington seems to be almost the only place where the old-fashioned custom of New Year's Day receptions is kept up; and the manner in which it was observed last Wednesday is best described by the correspondent of the *Baltimore American*. He looked with a special eye to the use of wine, and he writes as follows:

"Those who went calling to-day observed that the new class of Washington entertainers divided sharply on the wine line. The old-time Washington thoroughbred families remained true to the ideas of Southern hospitality and a generous buffet. The newer aristocracy, that is, the ladies of the Cabinet and the Senate did not differ much."

Let not our friends, the Prohibitionists, think that this difference in the manners of the day is to be ascribed to them. It is not because the cold water folk have succeeded in getting a hold upon the modern statesman that a new set of entertainers have sprung up who differ from hosts of the old style described above.

The fact is that wine has actually declined as an element of social entertainment. Years ago the master of an English house would be carried to bed night after night as "drunk as a lord," and his guests must have pursued to a great extent the same tactics. Nowadays the "last bottle of port" is almost unknown as the mainstay of men's conversation after the dinner is over. The addition to many modern houses of a smoking room, to which the male portion of the company adjourns after the feast, has been a considerable cause of the decline of the bottle, and the duty of the de-  
 center ends when they rise and move out. Far greater individual freedom also has come in in regard to drinking. The man who prefers not to drink may still keep his place in the social circle, without the imputation of lacking good fellowship. Wine is much less than formerly the subject of artistic appreciation. Forty years ago there were probably a dozen amateurs of great wines where there is one now. The exhibition of many varieties of wines of supreme excellence is now the ambition of comparatively few dinner givers. Taste runs more to a smaller list, with champagne receiving more attention throughout the feast; and this has rather dulled the powers of discrimination that distinguished the fashionable men of a former generation.

As a rule men drink less than they used to drink, and this admirable state of affairs has no relation to the influence of the Prohibitionists, but has come as a natural development of physical and gastronomic culture. The tea and coffee, therefore, which graced the official receptions in Washington came from the normal habits of the day rather than from any sentimental idea connected with the question of morals; and hence their standing in the community is all the more permanent and certain.

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## THE ARCHITECTURAL LEAGUE.

As usual at the exhibitions of the Architectural League, the smaller room in the Or-  
 and decorative art, and with designs for such  
 works. Few interesting objects of architectural  
 designs are shown. Chief among them stands the  
 cover for the new *Century Dictionary*, de-  
 signed by Mr. Stanford White. Although the  
 pattern is stamped, it has not the mechanical  
 aspect usually produced by this process, and is  
 quite delightful in both scheme and execution.  
 The exterior is finished in gold on yellow calfskin.  
 It is better than the one where white vellum is  
 used, the harmony of tone being more com-  
 plete and the design sufficiently emphatic.  
 Other book covers are exhibited, but this is the  
 only one that can be called a work of art.

Among the designs for stained glass much the best is Mr. Millet's small water color, No. 128. The story of Bottic